

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

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OMB No. 10024-0018

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of property:

historic name: Elk City Historic District (preferred)

other names/site number: Charleston West Side; Glen Elk; Magazine; West End.

2. Location:

street & number : Portions of Bigley Avenue, Jarrett Court, Lee Street, Pennsylvania Avenue,
Tennessee Avenue and West Washington Street.

not for publication: N/A

city or town: Charleston

state: West Virginia code: WV

county: Kanawha

code: 039

vicinity: N/A

zip code: 25302

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Susan Pierce
Signature of certifying official

9/23/08
Date

WV Division of Culture & History
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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4. National Park Service Certification:

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

☒ entered in the National Register.

Patrick Andrews

11/6/2008

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain): _____

5. Classification:

Ownership of Property:

Category of Property

☒ private

☐ public-local

☐ public-State

☐ public-Federal

☐ building(s)

☒ district

☐ site

☐ structure

☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

34

16

buildings

sites

structures

objects

34

16

TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

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6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse;

RELIGION: religious facility.

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse;

RELIGION: religious facility.

7. Description:

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, Romanesque, Romanesque Revival;

LATE 10TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Classical Revival;

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman;

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco;

OTHER: Four Square, One-Part Commercial Block, Two-Part Commercial Block, Two-Part Vertical Block, Enframed Window Wall, and Gable-Front types.

Materials:

Foundation:

Concrete; Concrete Block; Brick; Stone.

Walls:

Concrete Block; Brick; Terra Cotta Block; Vinyl; Aluminum; Wood; Metal; Stucco; Stone; Glass.

Roof:

Asphalt; Rubber; Metal; Slate; Clay tile.

Other:

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Narrative Description
(See continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance:

 X **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

 B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

 C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

 A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

 B removed from its original location.

 C a birthplace or a grave.

 D a cemetery.

 E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

 F a commemorative property.

 G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance:

Commerce;
Community Planning and Development.

Period of Significance:

1893 to 1958.

Significant Dates:

N/A

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Significant Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder:

Narrative Statement of Significance
(See continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography
(See continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

 X State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of Repository:

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10. Geographic Data:

Acreage of property: Approximately 13 acres

Quad Map Name: Charleston West, W.Va.

UTM References:

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A. 17	443838	4245959	B. 17	443985	4245694
C. 17	443843	4245611	D. 17	443689	4245857.

Boundary Justification
(See continuation sheet)

11. Form prepared by:

Name/Title: Firm of Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant
Dr. Billy Joe Peyton

Organization: Same as above

Date: December 1, 2007

Street & Number: 614 Main Street
301 Hill Hall, WVSU

Telephone: (304) 765-5716

City or Town: Sutton **State:** WV
Institute WV

Zip: 26601
25112

Property owner

Name: Multiple; List Attached.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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The Elk City Historic District consists of the remaining portions of the business district of Elk City that has retained a concentration of integrity. It contains all of the extant historic concentration of downtown commercial buildings in Elk City that were developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Elk City is located on the west side of Charleston, the state capital and county seat of Kanawha County. The district encompasses portions of Bigley Avenue, Jarrett Court, Lee Street, Pennsylvania Avenue/US Route 119, Tennessee Avenue and West Washington Street. The terrain is flat bottomland bordering the mouth of the Elk River. It is a compact and cohesive commercial district and allows for easy walking with West Washington and Lee Streets as wide boulevards, as befits a river town, with the intersecting streets only slightly narrower.

There are several large parking lots within the district: the largest and most conspicuous one located next to KA-4833, Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church. The remaining parking lots are located in the rear of the buildings on the southeast side of West Washington Street, the southeast side of Lee Street and the north side of Tennessee Avenue. These lots are inconspicuous and do not detract from the compact district. There are very few vacant lots within the district. There is a large street clock in front of Ka-4825, the Elk Banking Company building. It is typical of street clocks installed in historic times by banks.

The nominated area consists of approximately 13 acres. There are forty-eight (48) primary resources in the district; fifty (50) total resources when secondary and outbuildings are counted. Thirty-four (34) are considered contributing to the district; and sixteen (16) are considered non-contributing due to a modern construction date or modifications.

The business district is composed of mostly late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings and the bulk of them are along West Washington Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to the south and to the north up to Ohio Avenue. They are mostly one and two-story, masonry buildings with an occasional taller building. The buildings house storefronts on the first floor with offices and housing on the upper stories. The buildings

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are free standing and fill their lots with no set-backs. The majority of the commercial buildings date from c. 1900 up to 1958.

There are two small houses within the district, KA-4894 on Jarrett Court and KA-4880 on Lee Street, but both have been converted to commercial storage use. There are also three large houses that have been converted to apartment buildings. These are KA-4881 and KA-4882, both on Jarrett Court and KA-4879 on Lee Street.

There is one very large church located in the historic district. This is the Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, KA-4833, located on West Washington Street. The main church was built in 1909 in Romanesque Revival style. The style is illustrated through the use of the rough-faced stone work, the large tower and the use of arches for the openings. Two additions have been added to the church, one in c. 1915 and one c. 1920, and both are of blonde brick differentiating them from the main body of the church.

The remaining resources within the district are all commercial. There are few high style architectural styles represented within the district; the majority fall within typical commercial "types" such as Two-Part Commercial Block, Enframed Window Wall and Two-Part Vertical Commercial Block types typical of their function and time period.

Having said that, there are several outstanding building styles within the district. The Colonial Revival style can be seen in KA-4883, the old fire house located on Tennessee Avenue. The use of a red brick façade, wood 12/12 windows and decorative limestone detailing on the entrance surround illustrate the style when the building was constructed in 1939 by the WPA.

One of the larger buildings within the district is KA-4821, the old Staats Hospital and Knights of Pythias building located at 123 West Washington Street. It is a good example of the Classical Revival style as designed by architect and engineer, John C. Norman Sr. The style is illustrated by the large arched opening with Tuscan columns and caryatid figures above, all in stone and other stone detailing on the front facade. The building is historically significant for its association with Norman, the second African-

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American architect to be registered in West Virginia and the seventh registered architect in the state, regardless of race.

A more modern style, Art Deco, is represented by KA-4830, the old Custer Theatre building. It was constructed in 1938 and illustrates the style through its zigzag parapet and strong horizontal and vertical lines of the marquee. It also has the smooth wall surface of the style. While the building has been modernized it retains the distinctive elements of the Art Deco style.

Overall the general condition of the commercial buildings within the district is very good. There have been typical first floor alterations to storefronts over time but they still maintain their original functionality as a shopping district for the surrounding residential areas. The district is currently part of the West Virginia Main Street program and property owners are starting to return the building appearance's to their original "look."

The following is a complete list of resources in the district. The numbers are consistent with the Elk City Historic Resource Survey conducted in the Summer of 2005 and with the accompanying map. There are a total of fifty (50) resources in the district when secondary buildings are included: thirty-four (34) are considered contributing; sixteen (16) are considered non-contributing.

List of Sites

BIGLEY AVENUE

KA-4895. 711 BIGLEY AVENUE, commercial
World

Tudor's Biscuit

date: c. 1940

description: Small, one-story, flat roof, commercial building. Concrete roof cap. Concrete block façade with red brick front façade. Central recessed storefront with center door flanked by display windows and brick and stone veneer kickpanels. Recessed entrance door to the east. Concrete foundation. 1 bay wide. One-Part Commercial Block type.

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1 contributing building (C).

KA-4896. 715 BIGLEY AVENUE, commercial

Dutchess Bakery

date: c. 1940

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Concrete roof cap. Building appears to have the front portion added to original two-story, concrete block building. Front addition has painted brick on the second story, front and painted brick on the side, first floor. Remainder of first floor has red brick pilasters flanking the storefronts. Two entrances flank two central storefronts. Modern fixed pane windows on second floor. Concrete foundation. 10 bays wide. Two-Part Commercial Block type. Modified.

1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4897. 708 BIGLEY AVENUE, commercial

Kelley's Men Wear

date: c. 1940

description: Three-story, flat roof, commercial building. Terra cotta tile roof cap. Projecting primary cornice with flat frieze. Sides of building are a combination of concrete block, terra cotta block and red brick; front façade is yellow brick. Upper stories have modern 8/8 windows with projecting window hoods and brick sills. Transom area of storefront infilled. Central recessed entrance with flanking display windows and brick and paneled kickpanels; kickpanels are not original. Concrete block foundation. 2 X 1 bays. Two-Part Vertical Block type.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4898. BIGLEY AVENUE, commercial
Wear

Kelley's Men

date: c. 1940

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Concrete and terra cotta tile roof cap. Projecting primary cornice with flat frieze. Red brick façade on side; yellow brick façade on front. Second floor has modern 8/8 windows with projecting window hoods and brick sills. Storefront transom area infilled. Central recessed entrance with flanking display windows and paneled and brick kickpanels; kickpanels are not original. Brick foundation. 2 X 1 bays. Two-Part Commercial Block type.

1 contributing building (C).

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JARRETT COURT

KA-4881. 2 JARRETT COURT, residential

BBS Apartments

date: c. 1925

description: Large two-story, shallow hip roof house converted to an apartment building. Asphalt shingle roof. Vinyl siding. Tall two-story, full length, front porch with modern Tuscan columns on a concrete deck. Modern 1/1 windows with snap-in mullions. 2 X 1 bays. Concrete foundation. Four Square style.
1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4882. 3 JARRETT COURT, residential

BBS Apartments

date: c. 1925

description: Large two-story, shallow hip roof house converted to an apartment building. "V" seam metal roof. Wide aluminum siding. Modern 1/1 windows: metal canopies over second floor windows; shutters on front porch windows. Two-story, three-quarter length, front porch: second floor completed enclosed with siding and windows; first floor has square brick posts and an enclosed brick balustrade with concrete cap. 2 X 2 bays. Brick pier foundation. Four Square style.
1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4894. 11 JARRETT COURT, residential

Ledbetter House

date: c. 1925

description: One-story, hip roof residence. Roll roofing. Central interior chimney. Red brick façade. 1/1 wood windows; tripartite on front. Recessed arched entryway within roof overhang. 2 X 3 bays. Brick foundation. Bungalow style.
1 contributing building (C).

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LEE STREET

KA-4879. 212 W. LEE STREET, residential

BBS Apartments

date: c. 1920

description: Large two-story, hip roof house converted to apartments. Hip dormers. Two interior, corbelled blonde brick chimneys. Asphalt shingle roof. Red wire-cut brick façade. 9/9 windows. Three apartment entrances on first floor. Two-story, hip roof, three-quarter length, front porches; each with Doric columns and spindled balustrade. 3 X 3 bays. Rock-faced concrete block foundation. Four Square style.
1 contributing building (C).

M7. 210 W. LEE STREET, commercial

Consolidated Claim Service

date: c. 1985

description: Two-story, gambrel roof, commercial building with large one-story, flat roof addition on the front of red brick. Asphalt shingle roof on gambrel portion. Gambrel portion has T-111 siding and wood shingles. Modern 1/1 windows with snap-in mullions. Several shed roof additions on the rear and side. 3 X 6 bays. Brick and concrete block foundation.
1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4880. 212 ½ W. LEE STREET, residential

BBS Storage

date: c. 1930

description: Small one-story, end gable house converted to storage. One-story, hip roof wing on the north. Asphalt shingle roof. Vinyl siding. Modern 1/1 windows with shutters. 3 X 2 bays. Concrete foundation. Gable-Front house.
1 non-contributing building (NC).

M12. 114 W. LEE STREET, commercial

Computer Services

date: c. 1970

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Decorative mansard canopy. Metal roof cap. White brick façade. Aluminum storefront framing. 5 bays wide. Concrete foundation.
1 non-contributing building (NC).

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M13. 112 W. LEE STREET, commercial

Charles A. Lowman DDS

date: c. 1975

description: One-story, flat roof, professional building. Shingled mansard around entire building with dentiled molding below mansard. Red brick façade. 1/1 windows with snap-in mullions; shutters on front. Rear is concrete block. 2 X 1 bays. Concrete block foundation.

1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4891. 110 W. LEE STREET, commercial

Carson Building

date: c. 1930

description: Large two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Central stepped parapet with recessed brick panel: on front and side. Terra cotta tile roof cap. Blonde brick façade on second floor; grooved metal siding on first floor. Metal casement windows on second floor with brick sills. Modern aluminum storefront framing on first floor. Two-story, flat roof, brick addition on rear. 4 X 6 bays. Concrete water table and foundation. Two-Part Commercial Block type.

1 contributing building (C).

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

M14. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, commercial

Parking lot office

date: c. 1990

description: One-story, end gable building. Asphalt shingle roof. Concrete block façade and foundation. 2 X 3 bays.

1 non-contributing building (NC).

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KA-4892. 607 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, commercial
Vealey Insurance Agency

date: c. 1925

description: Broad two-story, side gable house with large central, end gable dormer on the front. Residence converted to commercial use. Slate roof. Dormer has porthole louver with compass point keystones, stucco and half-timbering and a slate façade. Red brick façade. Modern 1/1 windows; second floor windows have simple surrounds; first floor windows have rusticated stone lintels and rusticated stone sills. Front porch has been enclosed with stucco and half-timbering. Stucco and half-timbering in gable ends also.

One-story, full length, rear porch within roof overhang and has square brick columns and an enclosed brick balustrade with stone cap. 2 X 3 bays. Brick foundation. Bungalow style.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4893. 611 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, commercial
Jones Printing Company

date: c. 1930

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building with one-story, flat roof wing to the west with terra cotta tile roof cap. Two-story portion has concrete roof cap; parapet side elevation with terra cotta tile cap. Red wire-cut brick façade. One-story wing is painted concrete block façade. Central, brick louver detail on second floor above windows. Central tripartite wood, 1/1 windows on second floor with rusticated stone sill. Two-story portion has slightly recessed entrance door with flush display windows, infilled transom and tile kickpanel. One-story wing has flush aluminum entrance door and aluminum framed display windows. Small one-story, flat roof, rear addition. 3 X 4 bays. Brick foundation. Extant historic neon sign. Two-Part Commercial Block type. 1 contributing building (C).

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TENNESSEE AVENUE

KA-4883. 601 TENNESSEE AVENUE, commercial
BB&T Carson Insurance Services/Fire House

date: 1939

description: Very large, two-story, shallow hip roof, commercial building with central wall gable on the front. Connected via a hyphen to a small, one-story, side gable building with side parapet walls; the small building was originally a public restroom. Asphalt shingle roof on hip portion; red clay tile on gable portion. Red brick façade on hip portion; gable portion has red brick and limestone veneer on front. Wood 12/12 windows. Gable portion windows have decorative limestone lintels and a gabled pediment surround around the entrance doors. Hip portion has a central recessed entrance bay flanked by window bays; each bay has a stone keystone. The wall gable and window bays have stucco and half-timbering. Bronze WPA plaque on front of building. 8 bays wide. Red brick foundation. Colonial Revival style.
1 contributing building (C).

KA-4884. 602 TENNESSEE AVENUE, commercial
Davis Professional Building

date: c. 1925

description: Large two-story, shallow gable roof with shallow hip roof portion. Metal roof cap. Asphalt shingle roof. Stucco façade. Modern slider windows. Central flush entrance on the front flanked by windows. Rear corner recessed entrance. Large addition added c. 1985. 5 X 5 bays. Concrete foundation. Two-Part Commercial Block type. Modified.
1 non-contributing building (NC).

M8. 606 TENNESSEE AVENUE, commercial
date: c. 1980

IUOE Local

description: One-story, flat roof, professional building with shed roof parapet wall on the side. Metal roof cap. Brown brick façade. Pilasters form bays on the side. Modern entrance framing. 3 X 4 bays. Brick and concrete foundation.
1 non-contributing building (NC).

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KA-4885. 608 TENNESSEE AVENUE, commercial
CPA Office, Grigoraci Trainer Wright and Paterno

date: c. 1912

description: Large two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Terra cotta tile roof cap. Primary dentiled cornice. Painted brick façade on front; painted concrete block elsewhere. Painted simple belt courses on first and second floors. Large recesses on side elevation. Modern windows with snap-in mullions; windows on the front, first floor, have paneled kickpanels and simple hoods; windows on front, second floor, have simple window hoods. Entrance bay defined by two-story tall pilasters and has a divided transom and sidelights with paneled fanlight above. 6 X 3 bays. Brick foundation. Original decorative elements. Colonial Revival style.
1 contributing building (C).

KA-4886. 617 TENNESSEE AVENUE, commercial
Glass Guyz/C.A.R.S.

date: c. 1920

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Metal parapet cap. Corbeled brick bracketed primary cornice with recessed brick panel below it. Painted brick façade on front; concrete block elsewhere. Two window openings on second floor: each consists of four, louvered windows with painted rusticated sills. Two flush storefronts covered with large shed roof, fabric awning. Brick pilasters and kickpanels. 2 bays wide. Concrete block foundation. Two-Part Commercial Block type.
1 contributing building (C).

KA-4887. 615 TENNESSEE AVENUE, commercial
Academy of Arts at Januarys

date: c. 1920

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Metal parapet cap. Brick corbelled bracketed primary cornice with two, recessed brick panels below. Painted brick façade. Two pairs of modern 1/1 windows on second floor with painted lintels and sills. Two, recessed entrance storefronts; each has modern aluminum framing and infilled transoms. 2 bays wide. Brick foundation. Two-Part Commercial Block type.
1 contributing building (C).

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KA-4888. 613 TENNESSEE AVENUE, commercial
One Hour Heating & AC/Benjamin Franklin Plumbing
date: c. 1920

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stone roof cap. Corbeled brick primary cornice with brick belt course below and another corbelled brick section. Red wire-cut brick façade. Two tripartite wood 1/1 windows in the center flanked by single 1/1 wood windows: all have rusticated stone sills. Central, recessed modern entranceway flanked by pilasters covered with marlite. East side has display window with large transom area. West side has divided display windows and transom. 4 bays wide. Brick foundation. Two-Part Commercial Block type.
1 contributing building (C).

KA-4889. 611 TENNESSEE AVENUE, commercial
Charleston Trophy and Engraving/Linn Building
date: c. 1920

description: Large two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stone parapet cap. Corbeled brick primary cornice with course of basketweave brick below and below that a central limestone cartouche panel with "LINN" etched in it and flanked by two limestone panels and finally, below a limestone belt course. Red brick façade. Second floor has a central, arched and divided wood window flanked by sliding glass doors with metal railings. Secondary wood cornice. Central entrance door on first floor flanked by red brick pilasters with wood capitols and plinths: door has hood supported by scrolled brackets and above is an arched divided transom with limestone accents in the corners. A flush storefront flanks the central entrance door and each has a large prism glass transom. Side elevation is recessed in the center and forms an outdoor patio with enclosed brick balustrade with stone cap and the walls of the patio are stucco. 3 X 7 bays. Stone foundation. Colonial Revival style.
1 contributing building (C).

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WASHINGTON STREET

KA-4814. 108 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial

Kelley's Men's Shop

date: c. 1920

description: Large two-story, flat built-up roof, commercial building. Second floor has vertical aluminum siding; first floor of front elevation is red brick veneer; first floor elsewhere is concrete block. Modern metal windows on second floor. Metal canopy over first floor. Modern aluminum framing storefronts; two on front elevation. Concrete foundation. 2 X 1 bays. Two-Part Commercial Block type. Modified.

1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4815. 110 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial

Police Department/Retail Businesses

date: c. 1907

description: Large two-story, flat built-up roof, commercial building. Front elevation is Dry-Vit on first floor; vertical aluminum panels on the second floor; side elevation is original painted brick. Modern metal windows on second floor. Modern aluminum framing storefronts; five recessed storefronts. 11 X 5 bays. Two-Part Commercial Block type. Modified.

1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4816. 120 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial

Winter Floral/Carson Building

date: c. 1920

description: Tall two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Terra cotta tile cap and stepped parapet on side elevation. Pressed metal primary cornice with scrolled brackets, dentils and a frieze band. Side elevation is red brick; front elevation is tan brick on second floor. Two pairs of modern 1/1 metal windows on second floor with stone lintels and sills. Recessed brick panel above each pair of windows. Central recessed storefront with modern aluminum framing and modern metal panels in transom and kickpanel areas.

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Secondary cornice is covered with modern metal. Brick foundation. 2 X 1 bays.
Italianate style.
1 contributing building (C).

KA-4817. W. WASHINGTON STREET AT PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,
commercial

Gardener's Dry Cleaning

date: c. 1945

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Metal roof cap. Corbeled brick primary cornice with brick corbelled brackets. Painted brick façade. Windows on second floor have been infilled with wood and have painted rusticated stone lintels and sills. Secondary cornice consists of decorative brick coursing. Original storefronts have been infilled with concrete block and modern metal window openings. Main entrance on the side; double entrance doors with transom and sidelights with a metal canopy. Rear two-story, concrete block addition. Stone foundation. 10 X 2 bays. Two-Part Commercial Block type.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4818. 113 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
Medi-Home Care

date: c. 1907

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Storefront is infilled with Roman brick. Concrete roof cap on front; terra cotta tile roof cap on parapet side elevation. Corbeled brick primary cornice with corbelled brackets. Concrete belt course with another brick cornice with brackets below. Brick pilasters with plinths and caps define the bays on the front; plinths and caps are concrete. Red brick façade. Recessed off-set entrance with display window in one bay; display window in second bay. 2 bays wide. Concrete foundation. One-Part Commercial Block type.

1 contributing building (C).

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KA-4819. 117 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
The Grill

date: c. 1907

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet on the front with metal cap. Red wire-cut brick façade. Modern bubble awning over first floor. Recessed entrance door flanked by small display windows. Small addition on the north of brick veneer and stucco. 3 bays wide. Concrete foundation. One-Part Commercial Block type.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4820. 121 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
SFW Building

date: c. 1907

description: Small one-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stone roof cap on front; terra cotta tile on side. Corbeled brick cornice with brick louvers below. Basketweave brick secondary cornice. Red brick façade. Recessed entrance door with divided display windows on the south. 1 bay wide. Stone foundation. One-Part Commercial Block type. 1 contributing building (C).

KA-4821. 123 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
St. Francis West Health Care/Staats Hospital/K of P Lodge No. 78

date: c. 1922

description: Four-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet on the front and sides. Primary metal cornice with dentils. Center bay of upper stories projects and is arched; within the bay are Tuscan columns supporting an entablature with metopes with caryatids above that. In between the center bay and the primary cornice is another metal cornice with a rectangular panel between them. Rough-faced red brick façade. Second and third floor windows are wood 1/1; third floor windows are metal hoppers. First floor has a stone surround and the original storefront area has been infilled with modern brick and modern entrance doors. 10 X 9 bays. Concrete foundation. One-story addition on rear with terra cotta tile roof cap and red brick façade. Classical Revival style.

1 contributing building (C).

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KA-4822. 201 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
Ronk's Uniform Center Inc.

date: c. 1912

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Concrete roof cap on front; terra cotta tile on side. Faded mural on side. Corbeled brick primary cornice. Hard-fired brick façade with pink mortar. Pilasters with concrete caps and plinths frame the central storefront. Large awning over storefront. Central recessed modern aluminum storefront framing with divided display windows. 1 X 1 bays. Concrete foundation. Enframed Window Wall type.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4823. 205 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
Backstage Body Wear

date: c. 1907

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Metal roof cap on front; terra cotta tile roof cap on side; parapet on side. Corbeled brick cornice with concrete belt course and corbeled brick brackets. Central recessed brick panels above. Wire-cut red brick façade. Two pairs of 1/1 wood windows on second floor. Secondary cornice consists of concrete belt course with corbelled brick brackets. Central recessed entrance storefront with flanking display windows. Pilasters on first floor have been painted. Transom infilled with signboard. 2 bays wide. Stone foundation. Two-Part Commercial Block type.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4824. 207 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
Chris's Hot Dogs

date: c. 1920

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Concrete roof cap. Pressed metal primary cornice with dentils and a large frieze. Three, 1/1 windows on the second floor with brick surrounds with stone accent blocks at the top two corners. Red wire-cut brick façade. Brick pilasters with stone plinths and stone accent caps form the secondary brick cornice with stone diamonds. Modern aluminum framing on storefront; modern

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flush storefront with flanking display windows. Transom infilled with Marlite. 3 bays wide. Stone foundation. Italianate style.
1 contributing building (C).

KA-4825. 209 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial

Elk Banking Company

date: c. 1903

description: Large three-story, flat roof, commercial building. Terra cotta tile roof cap. Heavy pressed metal primary cornice with modillions and dentils. Corbeled brick courses below primary cornice. Blonde brick façade. Non-original modern windows: third floor windows have painted metal transoms; side elevation has infilled vinyl windows. Heavy stone secondary cornice with very wide frieze supported by banded rusticated brick pilasters with stone caps and plinths. Main entrance has a stone surround with a hood supported by brackets and a central decorative cartouche. One-story, flat roof garage addition on rear of concrete block. 6 X 15 bays. Stone foundation. Classical Revival style.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4826. 200 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial

The Fountain Hobby Center

date: c. 1893

description: Large two-story, flat built-up roof, commercial building. Concrete and metal roof cap. Parapet on front. Blonde brick façade with red brick accents at primary cornice level. Brick accents in front gable parapet. Second floor divided into bays with brick pilasters with stone capitols and within each bay are metal casement windows with a recessed brick panel. Marlite covers the entire first floor. Off-set, recessed storefront entrance with a display window on the right divided into four. 6 X 9 bays. Concrete foundation. Historic extant neon sign. Romanesque style.

1 contributing building (C).

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KA-4827. 214 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
Reflexionz R Clothing LLC/Freemen's Catering & Family Restaurant

date: c. 1893

description: Large two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Parapet wall on the front with two wall gables with corbelling and corbelled brackets. Brick turret in the center and one on either end. Below each wall gable is a decorative brick Moorish style arch. The building is divided in half; each half is three bays wide. Dentiled primary cornice beneath the arches. Red brick façade; painted on the side. Wood, 1/1 windows on the second floor with arched hoods with brackets and stone sills. The southern storefront is a central recessed entrance with faux stone veneer covering the entire first floor with metal panels covering the transom and kickpanels. The northern storefront is also modern infill: modern brick and wood siding with a slightly recessed entrance door flanked by divided display windows. There is an original brick pilaster on the north storefront with a stone capitol and plinth and stone accent course in the middle of the pilaster. 6 X 5 bays. Stone foundation. Romanesque Revival style.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4828. 222 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
Dollar General Store

date: c. 1945

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Metal roof cap. Red brick façade. Metal panel accent course above entrance runs the length of the building. Modern metal entrance and storefront framing. 2 X 1 bays. Concrete foundation. One-Part Commercial Block type.

1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4829. 301-303 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
Marshall Building/Ort Block

date: c. 1898

description: Large three-story, flat roof, commercial building. Corbeled brick primary cornice with pressed metal crown and brick dentils and brackets. Smooth red brick façade. Third story has two large paired arched windows, 1/1 wood windows with arched stone hoods and stone sills flanked by wood 1/1 windows with stone lintels and sills.

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Second story windows are the same but the two large paired windows are not arched. Secondary stone cornice. Two storefronts with metal paneled kickpanels, wood framing and divided transoms. Pilasters heavily rusticated with stone plinths, capitols and accents. 6 X 8 bays. Stone foundation and water table. Romanesque Revival style. 1 contributing building (C).

KA-4830. 305 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
PDM Architects & Engineers/Custer Theatre

date: c. 1938

description: Two-story, commercial building. Membrane barrel-shaped roof with stepped parapet on the front. Blonde brick façade with red brick detailing outlining the building; concrete block elsewhere. Second floor windows are modern metal, fixed pane. Stepped metal marquee with vertical metal columns with name on it. Modern metal storefront framing with original poster frames flanking the entrance. 4 bays wide. Concrete block foundation. Art Deco style.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4831. 309 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
Charleston Business Machines

date: c. 1907

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Upper level encased in vertical metal siding. Lower level encased in permastone and modern metal storefront framing. Angled storefront entrance with nice wood door with horizontal Art Deco style push bars on it. 1 bay wide. Foundation unknown. Two-Part Commercial Block type.

1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4832. 311 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial
Tridea Group

date: c. 1907

description: Large two-story, flat built-up roof, commercial building. Large broad pressed metal primary cornice with large end brackets, metopes and modillions; garlands in frieze area. Brown brick façade on second floor. 1/1 vinyl windows on second floor

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with rusticated stone lintels and sills. First floor divided into two storefronts. Southern storefront has Carrarra facade with metal framing and recessed entrance; northern storefront has Marlite facade and recessed entrance. 6 X 8 bays. Stone foundation. Two-Part Commercial Block type.
1 contributing building (C).

KA-4833. 317 W. WASHINGTON STREET, church
Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church

date: 1909

description: Large two-story, church building. Stone roof cap. Large gable, projecting entrance bay with central stained glass window with smooth stone mullions. Three-story, crenellated tower attached on north side. Front face is rusticated, rough-faced ashlar stone with grapevine joints; brick facade on side. Side and rear additions. Corner buttresses with shoulders at the top with smooth-faced stone and plinths. Three bands of stone surround the oak carved entrance doors. Stairs with cheek wall in front of entrance door. 3 X 5 bays/front. Stone foundation. Romanesque Revival style.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4833A.

R. Graves Hubbard

Building

date: c. 1915

description: Two-story, blonde brick addition. Flat roof with metal roof cap. Arched with buttresses. 1/1 metal windows. Chapel section has round-headed, stained glass windows. 8 bays wide. Concrete foundation.

1 contributing building (C).

KA-4833B.

date: c. 1920

description: Two-story, flat roof addition with stepped parapet with stone cap. Simple stone primary cornice. Blonde brick facade. 1/1 aluminum windows with transoms on both floors; stone surrounds with quoining. 4 X 9 bays. Concrete foundation.

1 contributing building (C).

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KA-4834. 300 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial

Artistic Advantage Tattoo Shop

date: c. 1945

description: One-story, membrane flat roof, commercial building. Parapet steps back towards the rear. Modern red brick veneer. Chamfered corner entrance. Side display windows infilled with wood siding and smaller windows. Awnings over each opening. 1 X 3 bays. Concrete foundation. One-Part Commercial Block type. Modified.
1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4835. 304 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial

Sodaro's Electronic Sales

date: c. 1945

description: One-story, flat built-up roof with stepped parapet to the rear, commercial building with two stories on the south side. "Dry-Vit"/stucco façade. Modern recessed storefront entrance. 3 bays wide. Concrete foundation. Two-Part Commercial Block type.
1 non-contributing building (NC).

KA-4836. 320 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial

Moon Tann/Barber & Beauty Shop

date: c. 1930

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stone roof cap. Hard-fired orange brick façade. Pilasters on each end and flanking the entrance; pilasters have molded stone capitols and plinths. Central recessed entrance flanked by divided transoms and display windows. 3 X 6 bays. Concrete foundation. Enframed Window Wall type.
1 contributing building (C).

KA-4837. 322 W. WASHINGTON STREET, commercial

Garrett Tire Center

date: c. 1955

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Metal roof cap. Painted concrete block façade. Two-story tower on north extending to two stories on rear. One-story, concrete block addition on rear. Four garage bays on front. 5 X 2 bays. Concrete

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block foundation. One-Part Commercial Block type.
1 contributing building (C).

Summary:

The majority of the buildings associated with the Elk City Historic District are in good condition and maintain their character defining elements and their primary function as a commercial district. The district contains all of the extant remaining commercial buildings of historic Elk City that still retain integrity. The district is a good example of a commercial district and neighborhood annexation to the City of Charleston through community planning and development. The period of significance, 1893 to 1958, dates to the first construction dates in the neighborhood in c. 1893 and goes to 1958, the historic period of significance.

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Statement of Significance:

The Elk City Historic District is significant under Criterion A for Commerce through its association with the growth and development of Charleston's commercial neighborhoods, Kanawha County, West Virginia. The district is also significant under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development through its association with the establishment and growth of the town through commercial endeavors. The period of significance spans from 1893 when several of the buildings were built to 1958, the historic period of significance. The district retains many of the characteristics and ambiance of an urban commercial center and continued to be significant to the area through 1958.

History:

Before the Civil War, the area west of the Elk River near its confluence with the Kanawha was primarily an agricultural district dominated by five farms that fronted the Parkersburg Pike and Point Pleasant Road (modern-day West Washington Street). Located closest to the river on the surrounding hills was Edgewood, an estate built in 1848 by J.L. Carr on a bluff just east of the drive that bears its name; next was Glenwood, constructed in 1852 by James M. Laidley and still standing at 800 Orchard Street. On the surrounding hills west of Glenwood was William Gillison's farm, and to the west of that stood Dr. Spicer Patrick's 1855 home (on today's Beech Avenue above the north end of Patrick Street). The westernmost farm was owned by Adam Littlepage, with its substantial stone mansion built in 1845 on the flats near Kanawha Two Mile Creek, at the intersection of the Charleston to Parkersburg Turnpike (also called Ripley-Ravenswood Road) and the Charleston to Point Pleasant Turnpike. The Littlepage mansion still stands at West Washington and Rebecca Streets and now serves as the offices for the Charleston Housing Authority. During the Civil War, the house and surrounding farm land served as campgrounds for Union and Confederate armies. Nearby Orchard Manor housing complex stands on the site of the former Littlepage farm orchard.

There is some speculation that a Civil War fort was also located on the hill above the Littlepage home, possibly on the Patrick farm. Although its presence has not been formally substantiated, the 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Charleston shows "Fort Hill Road" that runs parallel to West Washington Street on the adjacent hill to the north.

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Development of Charleston's west side began in 1870 after John Brisben Walker and William H. Playford purchased a one-hundred and ten acre parcel at the mouth of the Elk River from James and Sally Carr. The pair paid \$33,000.00 for the tract of desirable bottomland at the mouth of Elk River from a point near the end of Delaware Avenue on Kanawha River north to the point where modern Lee Street joined Washington Street.

It took in all the land within its boundary with the exception of the Bream family cemetery, located on the site where the Bream Presbyterian Church was later built (317-319 West Washington Street).

J. Brisben Walker (1847-1931) was the principal promoter of the area designated as the J.B. Walker Addition and unofficially called the "West End Extension." The ambitious young businessman from southwestern Pennsylvania was a West Point graduate who had served briefly as military advisor to the Chinese army. He returned to the U.S. in 1870 and at the age of 23 arrived in Charleston, where it is reported that he amassed a half-million dollar fortune in the iron-making business. In addition to his fledgling West End real estate venture, he established the *Charleston Herald*, a weekly "liberal, progressive" newspaper "devoted principally to the development of West Virginia." For that enterprise, Walker persuaded his father-in-law, the well-known journalist David Hunter Strother (who wrote under the literary *nom de plume* of Porte Crayon) to become editor.

Walker's ambitious plans for West End development got underway when he divided the section into a town site laid off with wide streets named for West Virginia counties and intersecting avenues with state names. His original plan, with some name changes, still exists for the most part. Walker also designated a large square as a public park that he proposed calling *Yuen Ming Yuen* in memory of his years in China. Details of his "West End Extension to Charleston" were revealed in a promotional publication titled *The Kanawha Valley 1872*:

Lying on the western and lower side of the Elk River – perfectly level – well drained – and nearly
Fifty feet above the level of the river.

BROAD STREETS

All the streets are at right angles to each other, perfectly straight and sixty feet wide.

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PUBLIC PARK

A public park is the center of the city, and will be opened to the public during the summer.

BRIDGES

One suspension bridge now built and the money subscribed for an iron bridge, which will be commenced
As soon as all danger from spring floods shall have ceased.

MANUFACTURES

Among the manufactures already in operation are a Machine Shop and Foundry, two Saw and Planing Mills, Furniture Factory and Tobacco Factory. These establishments will employ during the present year Over three hundred men... Twenty eight new houses have been erected during the past season – and the Sale of lots during the past month alone amount to six thousand dollars... Size (of lots), 40 x 120 feet”.

In 1870, access to the bottomland west of Elk River was limited to a single wire suspension bridge that had been erected in 1852 on the Charleston to Point Pleasant Turnpike (modern-day Washington Street), a major state route opened to the Ohio River in 1836. The bridge, which carried the turnpike into downtown Charleston, had been partially demolished by Union forces to slow Confederate advances during the Battle of Charleston on September 13, 1862, and repaired following the Civil War. After undergoing extensive repairs the span reliably carried traffic until December 15, 1904, when it tragically collapsed into the icy Elk River, killing two school children and drowning 11 horses.

Walker planned to improve access to his holdings by erecting the Keystone Bridge, a light steel span with a wooden roadway that carried Virginia Street over the Elk River from Charleston. The bridge opened in 1873, further bolstering prospects for the area that was rapidly being transformed from a heavily forested and sparsely-populated agricultural district into an industrial center. By 1872, the region had already grown to contain a machine shop, stove factory, furniture factory, soda and mineral water plant, and a tobacco factory.

Some time after launching his initial plan, Walker convinced Nicholas J. Bigley from the Pittsburgh area to join him in developing another portion of the West Side. The pair proceeded to buy additional land from Aletha Brigham, daughter of Major James Bream

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who had been a principal early West Side landowner. Walker and Bigley bought up numerous tracts and began laying out and promoting the Bigley Addition. Together, the Walker and Bigley additions covered territory in the Elk Valley north of present Washington Street, an area that became known as Glen Elk. Even later, a third development grew up between the western end of the initial section and Littlepage Farm on Kanawha Two Mile Creek (at the north end of Washington Street near the intersection with Rebecca Street).

Walker and Bigley aspired to build a new industrial city north of Washington Street based on an iron industry that they hoped to establish. One of their early acts of promotion was to invest in construction of a blast furnace that would utilize iron ore that outcropped in the vicinity of Magazine Creek (along present-day Garrison Avenue). In 1875 Walker and Bigley sold to the Kanawha Iron Company a parcel of land for the proposed blast furnace to be built along the Elk River bank, just above the Spring Street Bridge and only a short distance from the ore beds.

Despite his initial successes in Glen Elk, the nationwide Panic of 1873 hit Walker extremely hard. He would lose his West Side property, as well as the partially constructed blast furnace. With his business prospects gone and finances depleted, Walker subsequently left Charleston in search of greener pastures.

Economic prospects eventually brightened, and West Side fortunes took a giant step forward following completion of the first railroad bridge over Elk River in 1883. The handsome and historically significant Whipple Truss (which still spans the river near Spring Street) was a key element in an important 50-mile Kanawha & Ohio Railway constructed between 1884 and 1888 to connect the Kanawha and Ohio valleys. The K&O Railway began at the base of Capitol Hill near Piedmont Road, crossed the Elk on the Whipple Truss and bisected the growing West Side en route to its terminus at Point Pleasant. In 1890 the Kanawha & Michigan Railroad acquired the K&O line, and in 1898 the K&M expanded its operations up the Kanawha River to Gauley Bridge in neighboring Fayette County. Shortly thereafter, the Kanawha & West Virginia Railroad joined with the K&M Railroad on the west bank of the Elk near the Whipple Truss and

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extended up the north bank of the river to Blue Creek and beyond in 1907. Through rail service to the north and west further bolstered prospects for West Side expansion.

From the outset, West Washington Street (originally known as Charleston Street) evolved as the heart of the West End business section, with lots selling for about \$10 a front foot at a depth of 120 feet. Noteworthy firsts on the primary route include the first brick store building on the West Side, built in 1873-74 at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and West Washington Street. It also housed the Elk Lodge of the Odd Fellows, the first of many fraternal organizations and lodge halls which would come to occupy the upper floors of many Washington Street commercial buildings and bear evidence of the West Side's blue-collar roots. Another noteworthy early Washington Street business was the blacksmith shop operated by Mose Leftwich, an African American and former slave who performed much of the blacksmithing for farmers living along Kanawha Two Mile Creek. Other noteworthy enterprises that were located along the Elk River above Washington Street included a barrel factory that packed and shipped salt from Malden and a tobacco warehouse that shipped more than 240,000 pounds of Kanawha County tobacco to English markets in 1873.

West Side growth north of Elk River continued unabated into the 1880s. Additional land was eventually included in the Glen Elk section and called Upper Glen Elk. In 1891, Upper and Lower Glen Elk and Walker's West End Extension reached an important milestone when they incorporated as the town of Elk City. Population in the new municipality reached 2,000 by the next year, when the *West Virginia State Gazetteer* boasted of "considerable manufacturing carried on in the town, among which are a foundry, brick yard, saw and planing mills, furniture and veneer factories." More development ensued after the West Side Improvement Company incorporated in 1892 with the purpose of purchasing the bottomlands adjacent to and west of the original Walker tract. The new acquisition, which stretched from the Kanawha River north to the West Side hills, opened up additional land for manufacturing and home sites.

Charleston experienced its own period of uninterrupted expansion between 1870 and 1900, as it grew from a picturesque rural village of less than 3,000 people into a dynamic industrial city with a population approaching 15,000. Part of Charleston's expansion can

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be explained by its selection as the permanent capitol of West Virginia; another reason for the unparallel growth came with the annexation of Elk City as the city's Sixth Ward in 1895. By that time, hundreds of modest homes existed and hundreds more were under construction or being planned in order to accommodate the ever-increasing number of men and women employed in West Side industries.

One of the most important early catalysts of West Side growth came with construction of the Kelly Axe & Tool Company factory in 1905. A massive complex of buildings covering 52 acres of ground along Kanawha River adjacent to Patrick Street, the Kelly operation was hailed as the world's largest axe factory. It employed nearly 950 workers by 1907, and later plant expansion raised employment to well over 1,000 workers producing 40,000 finished tools per day. The True Temper Corporation later took over the plant and operated it until 1980; the site is currently occupied by the Patrick Street Plaza.

Industry and settlement quickly spread up the Elk and down the Kanawha River in the early 20th century until the multitude of farms and fields had yielded to an industrial and residential landscape that stretched nearly a mile in either direction. From the outset, development radiated from Charleston Street (today known as West Washington Street), so named because the Charleston to Point Pleasant Road ran along it. Unabated expansion brought the need for corresponding social institutions, and by 1907 the region supported a number of churches, fraternal societies and lodge halls, a fire station, post office and four primary schools – Lincoln, Elk, Patrick and Bigley (all have been demolished).

Charleston's population burgeoned in the first decade of the 20th century, and the West Side mirrored that growth on a local scale. By 1912, neighborhood expansion had filled much of the flats to the base of the surrounding hills and commercial development appeared with increasing frequency along Charleston (West Washington) Street, which held the advantage of location over other West Side streets. Vehicular traffic on Charleston Street increased after World War I and by the late 1920s its designation as U.S. Route 21 made it a part of a primary national highway running between Cleveland, Ohio and Hunting Island, South Carolina. In West Virginia, U.S. 21 was a major

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thoroughfare linking Parkersburg, Charleston, Beckley and Bluefield. Charleston Street was officially renamed West Washington Street in the 1930s. By that time, West Side growth stretched down the Kanawha River for approximately a mile to the vicinity of Patrick Street and up Elk River to the confluence of Pennsylvania and Bigley Avenues.

Prospects for the booming district improved further after the advent of horse-drawn streetcar service in downtown Charleston in 1888 and a West Side extension that crossed the Virginia Street bridge and ran down to Patrick Street shortly thereafter. Electrification by the Charleston Traction Company came after 1900, and around 1903 the company built a trolley car barn and power plant in the 100 block of Virginia Street West. A section of the car barns still exist as part of Goodwill Enterprises. The Edgewood Streetcar Company began service in 1907, running along Tennessee Avenue to Charleston Street before it turned north through the Edgewood subdivision en route to its terminus at Edgewood Park in the surrounding hills (near present-day Cato Park). The West Side flats route also included Luna Park, a popular amusement complex built in 1912 on several acres along the west bank of Kanawha River. Built over one of the oldest golf courses in Charleston, patrons entered the park from the river or by streetcar that ran from Central Avenue to Park Avenue. Although Luna Park burned in 1923, its boundary roads are discernible on a modern street map because they wind in a meandering fashion that differs from surrounding streets and avenues.

For over a half-century, from the 1920s through the 1980s, West Washington Street was the central hub of activity on Charleston's "convenient West Side." In the year 1940, the Polk city directory listed no less than 160 commercial, medical and retail establishments along the stretch of West Washington from Elk River to Kanawha Two Mile. The businesses contain an amazing diverse collection of enterprises that were local, regional and national in scope and included restaurants, banks, five and dime, grocery stores of all kinds, theater, hospital, post office, funeral home, feed store and others.

West Washington Street remained the principal business route for the West Side after World War II. It teemed with activity into the 1970s, when great changes began to appear. Construction of the interstate highway system through Charleston in the late 1960s and early 1970s forever changed that portion of the West Side closest to the

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confluence of the Elk and Kanawha Rivers.

Despite the recent range of social and economic challenges confronting this historic section of Charleston, the area originally laid out in 1870 and known variously as the West End Extension, Glen Elk and Elk City, retains many viable and historic businesses. Long-time institutions include the Fountain Hobby Center, Kelley's Men Shop, Sodaro's, The Grill and Chris' Hot Dogs nearest the Elk River. These and other stalwart entrepreneurs have prevailed to insure that West Washington Street retains its position as the district's principal business address. Today, 135 years after J. Brisben Walker first revealed his plans for developing land west of Elk River with Charleston Street as its economic center, historic West Washington Street remains a heavily traveled route and a key element in the planned revitalization of Charleston's West Side.

Architecture and Architects:

While the Elk City Historic District is not being listed for its architecture there is one noteworthy building within the district that bears mentioning. It is the old Staats Hospital/Grand Theater building, KA-4821 located at 123 West Washington Street. It is a good example of the Classical Revival style as designed by architect and engineer, John C. Norman Sr. The style is illustrated by the large arched opening with Tuscan columns and caryatid figures above, all in stone and other stone detailing on the front facade. The building is historically significant for its association with Norman, the second African American architect to be registered in West Virginia and the seventh registered architect in the state, regardless of race.

Norman was born in New Jersey in 1892. His parents died while he was still quite young, an early teenager, and he and his sister were raised by their grandmother, Lucy Hunt, in Oxford, North Carolina. He attended school in North Carolina and was guided into architect by his principal, Lucy Craft Laney. He attended the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State Institute in Greensboro prior to serving in the Army during World War I. Norman was mustered out of the Army in 1918 as a first lieutenant. He then attended Carnegie Technical Institute (now Carnegie-Mellon University) to complete postgraduate studies in architecture and structural engineering. He did not earn a degree. He moved to Charleston, West Virginia in 1919 to put his architectural

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education to work. He was responsible for the design of the Staats Hospital as well as other buildings further north on West Washington Street.

In 1921 West Virginia began issuing licenses to architects and Norman received his in 1922; the seventh licensed architect in West Virginia regardless of race. He maintained Certificate No. 7 throughout his career which spanned forty-eight years. He was the second African American to be a licensed architect in the state.

Norman married Ruth Lydia Stephenson in 1924 and their home was established on Charleston's West Side at 1118 Second Avenue, a home that Norman had designed for them. The couple had one son, John Norman, Jr. on May 11, 1929. John Jr. would go on to become a prominent thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon and researcher.

In 1925 Norman Sr. established a department of architecture and engineering at West Virginia State College at the urging of its president and dean. He continued in independent practice as well and designed and supervised the construction of twelve faculty houses on the campus. Norman designed numerous residences throughout Charleston; in the East End and in the South Hills neighborhoods. He also designed commercial buildings as seen by the Staats Hospital building.

Norman worked with other architects and builders of the period including Martens & Associates, Architects and Louis Smoot Contracting. All of these collaborations are evident in the East End Historic District and in the South Hills neighborhood. Norman expanded his practice throughout West Virginia as well as Ashland, Kentucky and Xenia, Ohio. Over the course of his career he designed and supervised construction for more than five hundred buildings. Norman died on July 11, 1967 and is buried in Spring Hill, West Virginia. The Elk City Historic District is privileged to have the Staats Hospital building as a representative of Norman's design and architectural practice.

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Summary:

The Elk City Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its local commercial significance and for its significance with the establishment and growth of Charleston through commercial endeavors.

The Elk City Historic District is significant under Criterion A for Commerce through its association with the growth and development of Charleston's commercial neighborhoods, Kanawha County, West Virginia. The district is also significant under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development through its association with the establishment and growth of the town through commercial endeavors. The period of significance covers from 1893 when several of the buildings were built to 1958, the historic period of significance. The district retains many of the characteristics and ambiance of an urban commercial center and continued to be significant to the area through 1958, the fifty-year cut-off date as mandated by the National Park Service.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Elk City Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map titled "Elk City Historic District Verbal Boundary Description Charleston Kanawha County, WVA" and dated December 1, 2007. The map is used as the verbal boundary description. The northern boundary is defined by Ohio Avenue; the eastern boundary is Bigley Avenue and the rear of the lots that front West Washington Street; the southern boundary is defined by Pennsylvania Avenue; and the western boundary is the east side of Lee Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

South of the southern boundary, Pennsylvania Avenue, is located the interstate with access and exit ramps. North of the northern boundary, Ohio Avenue, the resources are modified, more spread out with vacant land and more modern resources. The eastern boundary does not extend any further along Bigley Avenue as modern resources occur and than a residential neighborhood. The western boundary, the east side of Lee Street, does not extend beyond due to modern resources. The Elk City Historic District consists of the remaining portions of the business district of Elk City that has retained a concentration of integrity. It contains all of the extant historic concentration of downtown commercial buildings in Elk City that were developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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Name:	Elk City Historic District
Address:	Portions of Bigley Avenue, Jarrett Court, Lee Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, Tennessee Avenue and West Washington Street.
City:	Charleston
County:	Kanawha
Photographer:	Jean Boger
Date:	September 2007
Negatives:	WVSHPO, Charleston, WV
Photo 1 of 13	Bigley Avenue looking east.
Photo 2 of 13	Pennsylvania Avenue looking west.
Photo 3 of 13	Pennsylvania Avenue looking east.
Photo 4 of 13	Bigley Avenue looking southwest.
Photo 5 of 13	Washington Street looking northwest.
Photo 6 of 13	Washington Street looking southwest.

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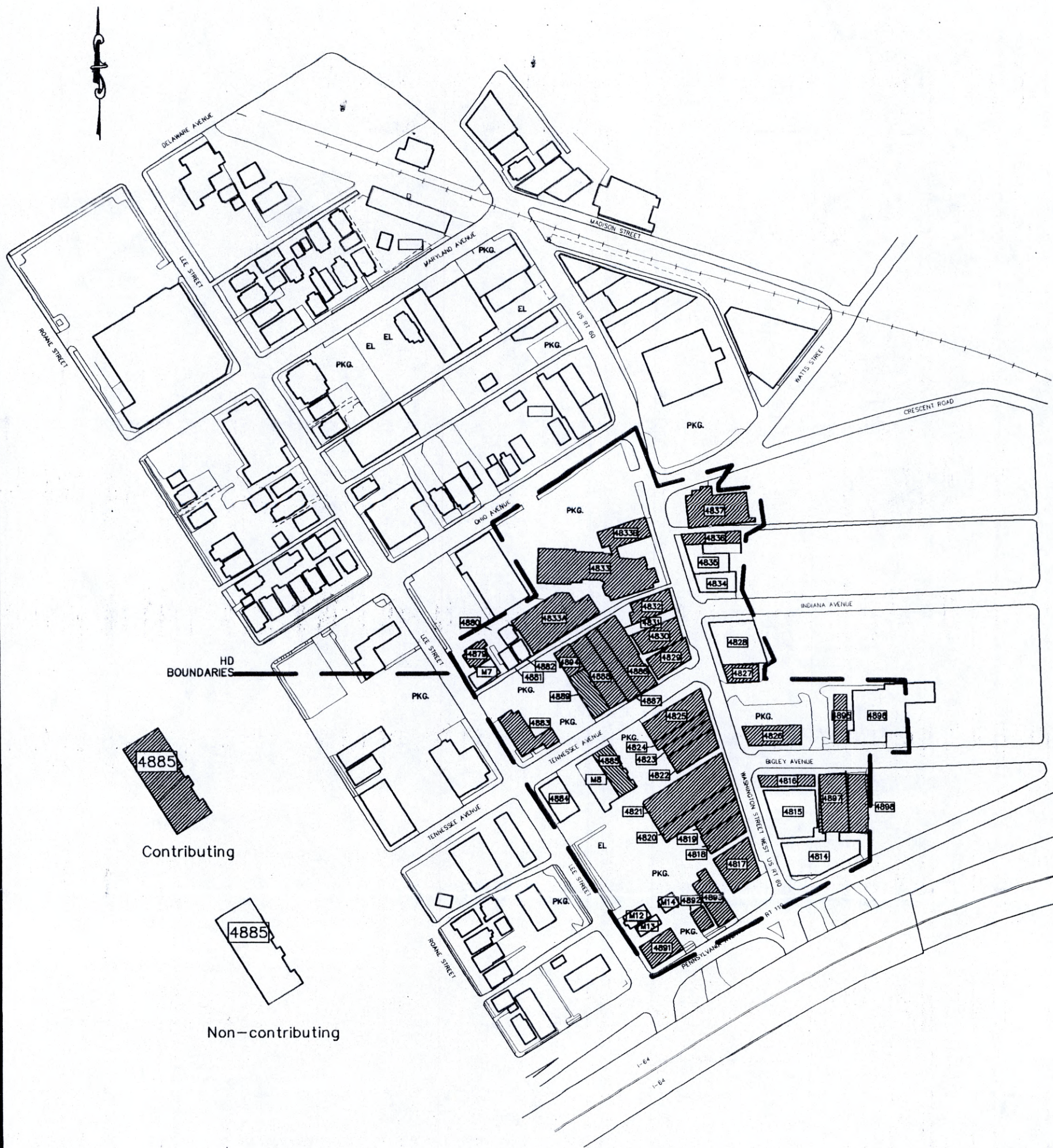
Elk City Historic District
Name of Property

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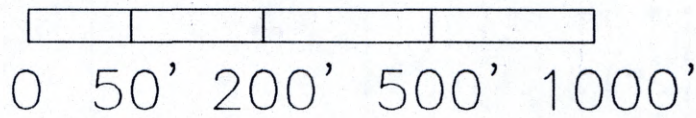
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Photo 7 of 13	Tennessee Avenue looking northeast.
Photo 8 of 13	Building #KA-4821 looking southwest.
Photo 9 of 13	Building #KA-4821 detail looking southwest.
Photo 10 of 13	Building #KA-4833 looking west.
Photo 11 of 13	Building #KA-4827 looking northeast.
Photo 12 of 13	Building #KA-4829 looking southwest.
Photo 13 of 13	Building #KA-4831 looking west.



Base map courtesy of
PDM Architects & Engineers
305 W. Washington St.
Charleston, WV 25302

SCALE:

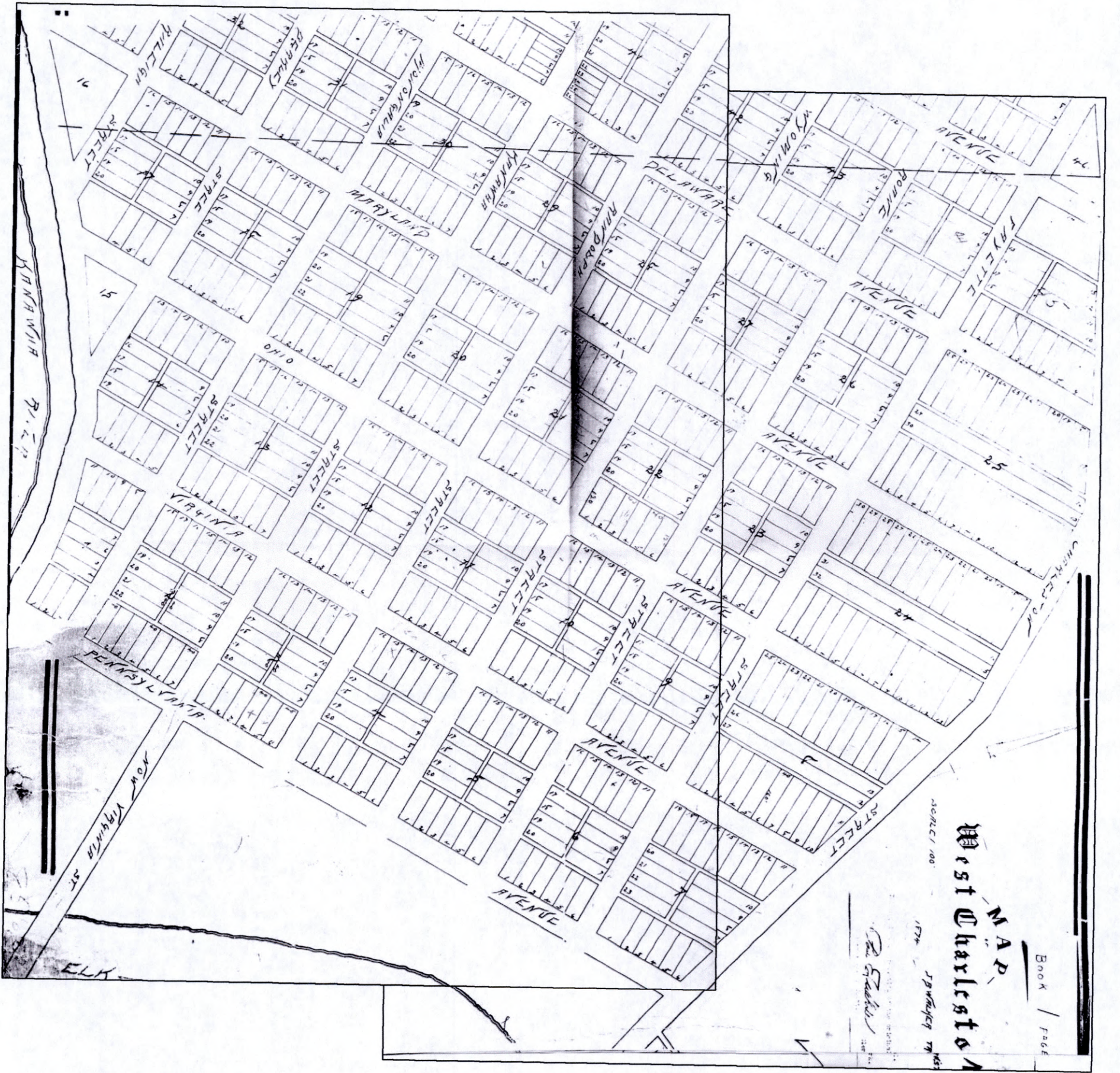


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ELK CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
CHARLESTON, KANAWHA COUNTY, WVA

MICHAEL GIOULIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT
614 MAIN STREET
SUTTON, WV 26601
(304) 765-5716

Date
DEC. 1, 2007



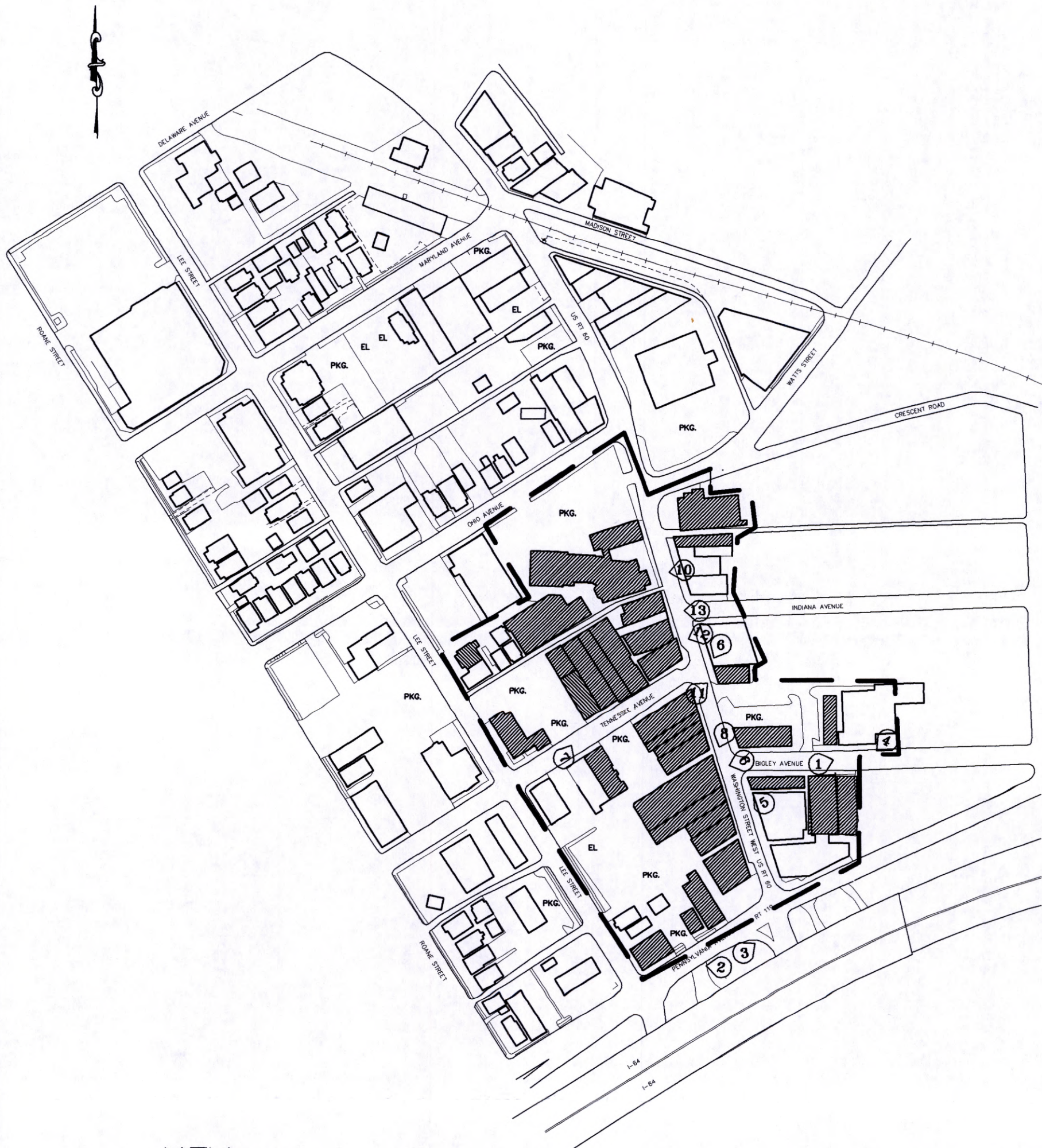
Date

DEC. 1, 2007

MICHAEL GIOULIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT
614 MAIN STREET
SUTTON, WV 26601
(304) 765-5716

1874 Map of West Charleston
As filed by JB Walker
Charleston, Kanawha County, WVa

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KEY:



= Photo # and direction

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305 W. Washington St.
Charleston, WV 25302

SCALE:

